

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 230-256 remain pending in the application, with Claims 230, 234, 237, 238, 243, 244, 248, 252, and 254-256 being independent. Claims 230, 234, 236-238, 241, 244, 245, 247, 248, 251, 252 and 254-256 have been amended herein.

Claims 230-237, 252 and 254-256 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 63-273954 (Yabumoto). Claims 230-253 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 2-122355 (Kiyozumi) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,902,146 (Ishikawa). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Kiyozumi relates to a package controller having a line control function and a system interface function. When a package is connected to a system bus, a CPU transfers the driver from a memory to the main storage and permits the driver to render the package active. However, as recognized by the Examiner, Kiyozumi does not disclose or suggest discriminating a type of external device and selecting a device driver program based on the discrimination.

Therefore, Kiyozumi fails to disclose or suggest discriminating a device type of an external device and determining selection of a device driver program provided in the external device or a device driver program existing in a memory area of an information processing apparatus, as is recited in independent Claims 230, 234 and 237.

Nor does Kiyozumi disclose or suggest discriminating a device type based on information stored in a memory unit and determining selection of a device driver program stored in the memory unit or a device driver program in an information processing apparatus based on the discrimination, as is recited in independent Claim 252.

Applicant further submits that Kiyozumi does not disclose or suggest discriminating whether an external device is a first type of device in which a memory is provided for storing a device driver program or a second type of device in which the memory is not provided, and selecting the device driver program in the memory or a device driver program in a memory provided in an information processing apparatus, as is recited in independent Claims 238 and 244.

Nor does Kiyozumi disclose or suggest loading a device driver program from the memory provided in the external device if discriminated that the external device is the first type of device, as is recited in independent Claims 243 and 248.

Furthermore, Kiyozumi does not disclose or suggest discriminating a type of device of an external device and determining selection of a device driver program in the external device or a device driver program in a memory area provided in an information processing apparatus on the basis of the discriminated device type, as is recited in independent Claims 254-256.

Thus, Kiyozumi fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Ishikawa describes an electronic apparatus with a memory card for storing a plurality of information. The operation of the apparatus is described in Figs. 5(a) and 5(b).

In step 502 of Fig. 5(a) and step 512 of Fig. 5(b), it is determined whether the ID code read out from the memory card is FFH. This makes it possible to detect whether the memory card is connected with the connector. Ishikawa can also determine whether the card is an emulation card or a font card. It is respectfully submitted, however, that these teachings of Ishikawa fail to remedy the deficiencies of Kiyozumi noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Furthermore, even if the feature of detecting the type of memory card of Ishikawa were incorporated into the apparatus of Kiyozumi, the combination would not result in selection of a device driver program in an external device or in an information processing apparatus.

Yabumoto relates to an information processor that can automatically select a desired driver. As understood by Applicant, the apparatus selects one of a plurality of drivers stored in its storage for controlling an external device in response to a device type of the external device. Applicant submits, however, that Yabumoto fails to disclose selecting a device driver program based on discrimination by a discrimination unit. There is, therefore, no disclosure of at least discriminating a device type and determining selection of a device driver program provided in the external device or a device driver program in an information processing apparatus, as is recited in independent Claims 230, 234 and 237; discriminating a device type based on information stored in a memory unit and determining selection of a device driver program stored in the memory unit or a device driver program stored in an information processing apparatus based on the discrimination, as is recited in independent Claim 252; or discriminating a device type of an external

device on the basis of data stored in the external device and determining selection of a device driver program in the external device or a device driver program in a memory area provided in an information processing apparatus, on the basis of the discriminated device type, as is recited in independent Claims 254-256.

Thus, Yabumoto also fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Thus, independent Claims 230, 234, 237, 238, 243, 244, 248, 252, and 254-256 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.


For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by the independent claims. Dependent Claims 231-233, 235, 236, 239-242, 245-247, 249-251 and 253 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicant earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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